

plan to work hard in school and in everything I do so she can be proud of me like I was of her."

None of us is untouched by the terror of September 11, and many Californians were part of each tragic moment of that tragic day. Some were trapped in the World Trade Center Towers. Some were at work in the Pentagon. And the fates of some were sealed as they boarded planes bound for San Francisco or Los Angeles.

I offer today this tribute to one of the 51 Californians who perished on that awful morning. I want to assure the family of Deora Bodley, and the families of all the victims, that their fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters will not be forgotten.

ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the people of Macedonia and Montenegro will participate in parliamentary elections on September 15 and October 6, respectively. Given recent history in that region, the successful conduct of these polls is in the security interests of both the United States and all of southeastern Europe.

Free and fair elections in Macedonia could serve as the beginnings of a new chapter for that country. It was only last year that ethnic grievances in Macedonia turned violent, resulting in deaths, casualties, and thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees. While on the mend, successful elections could prove to be a critical milestone for both the people of Macedonia and the international community.

A major challenge for the Government of Macedonia and all political parties is to earn the trust and confidence of the electorate before the first ballots are cast. Let me be clear: there is no room for election chicanery and violence.

The Government of Macedonia should be aware that the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, on which I serve as ranking member, increased fiscal year 2003 funding provided to the Assistance for Eastern Europe and Baltic States, SEED, account. The subcommittee has suggested that additional funds be provided to Macedonia—over and above the administration's request, but our continued support will be gauged by the successful conduct of the September polls.

In Montenegro, I am troubled by Parliament's recent amendments to the election and public information laws, and the method by which these changes were made. In the past, Parliament utilized a process of consensus and agreement when deliberating election-related issues, which helped create a democratic and stable framework for contentious polls. Last month, the majority coalition in Parliament disregarded past practices and the technical advice of the international com-

munity and muscled through changes to the laws. Such heavy-handedness undoubtedly sours the preelection environment, and raise suspicions and political tensions.

The amendments to the laws are equally troubling, particularly for the ethnic-Albanian community whose reserved seats in Parliament were reduced from five to four. The majority coalition in Parliament empowered themselves to appoint members to national and local election commissions, permitting total and partisan control over the electoral process. Further, changes to the laws prohibit pollwatchers to question or challenge officials on the conduct of the poll on election day, and private media is banned from accepting paid advertising from political parties.

Let me close by strongly encouraging the State Department, along with the OSCE, to take appropriate actions to ensure free and fair elections in Montenegro. I will continue to closely follow developments in that region, as well as the reports and updates issued by the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute.

IN MEMORIAM: NICOLE CAROL MILLER

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to share with the Senate the memory of one of my young constituents, Nicole Carol Miller, who lost her life on September 11, 2001. Ms. Miller was a lovely 21-year-old college student when the flight she was on, United Airlines Flight 93, was hijacked by terrorists. As we all know, that plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field, killing everyone on board.

Nicole's memory lives on in the hearts of those she loved. She took great joy in life and exemplified this with her wonderful outlook and tenacious personality. Nicole's radiant smile could light up a room and she energized those around her. She knew how to be an outstanding friend.

Nicole was blessed with two families. Her father and stepmother, David and Catherine Miller of Chico, California and her mother and stepfather, Cathy and Wayne Stefani, Sr., of San Jose, California.

In her father's words, "She had that sweet baby quality. She could make you smile and forget your troubles for a little bit." Friend Heidi Barnes describes Nicole as "very friendly and welcoming. She had a big heart and it was open to everyone."

She lived in San Jose, CA, with her mother and stepfather, Cathy and Wayne Stefani, Sr. She attended local schools and graduated from Pioneer High School in 1998. A talented softball player during all four years of high school, Nicole won a college softball scholarship during her senior year. Even though she had never been a competitive swimmer, she tried out for the Pioneer High swim team as a freshman and made the team.

At the time of her tragic death, she was a dean's list student at West Valley College in Saratoga, working part-time and weighing whether to transfer to California State University at Chico or San Jose State University.

Nicole is survived by her mother, Cathy M. Stefani; stepfather, Wayne Stefani, Sr.; father, David J. Miller; stepmother, Catherine M. Miller; and her siblings, Tiffney M. Miller, David S. Miller, Danielle L. Miller, Wayne Stefani Jr., Joshua R.D. Tenorio, and Anthony D. Tenorio.

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Thank you. I yield the floor.

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT B. PENNINGER

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to share with the Senate the memory of one of my constituents, Robert Penninger, who lost his life on September 11, 2001. Mr. Penninger was 63 years old when the plane he was on, American Airlines Flight 77, was hijacked by terrorists. As we all know, that plane crashed into the Pentagon, killing everyone on board.

Robert "Bob" Penninger grew up in Chicago, IL. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at Purdue University and received a Masters Degree in Business Administration from Northeastern University. After graduating from college, he married his wife Janet and they raised their daughter, Karen, in Massachusetts. At the time of his tragic death, Bob was working as an electrical engineer for the defense contractor BAE Systems in Rancho Bernardo, CA, and was returning home from a business trip on September 11.

Mr. Penninger lived life to the fullest and is greatly missed by all who knew him. His wife, Janet, recalls, "Bob was always willing to help everyone he met. He was a great storyteller and he always had a smile on his face and a cheery hello for all." Mr. Penninger enjoyed motorcycle trips with his wife and friends. He also loved taking his 1999 Electric Green Cobra Mustang convertible to car shows, where he won many trophies.

Kit Young lived next door to Penninger for eight years and remarked, "Bob brought a lot of joy to this neighborhood. He developed a special relationship with my 11-year-old